



Health Report: 2000-2001

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This report describes data from the WorkFirst Study (WFS). The sample was drawn from the statewide list of adults receiving welfare assistance in March 1999 (1999 Cohort) and October 2000 (2000 Cohort). The 1999 Cohort respondents were interviewed in 2000 and again in early 2001. The 2000 Cohort respondents were interviewed in early 2001. This report uses data from 3,037 interviews in the first year, 1,955 re-interviews with the 1999 Cohort, and 1,334 interviews with the 2000 Cohort.

This report addresses issues of adult and child health, school outcomes for children, and insurance coverage for adults and children. We compare information for the 1999 and 2000 cohorts.

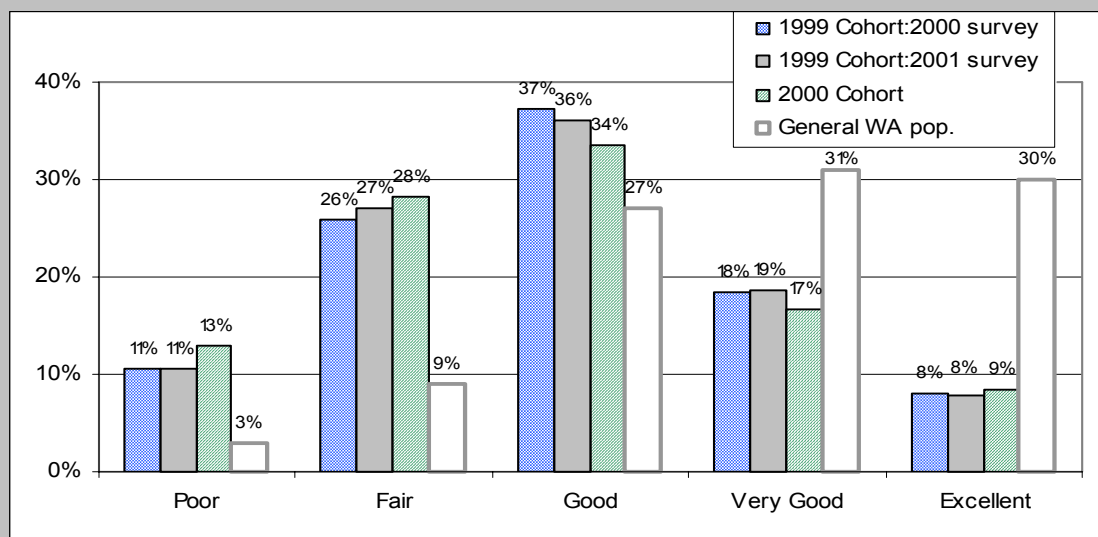
FINDINGS

- **About 60 percent of respondents in both the 1999 and 2000 Cohorts reported their health to be good or better. About a third in both cohorts reported their health as fair or poor.**
- **About a third of both cohorts reported having a health condition that limits the work they can do. Only a small number reported a health condition that prevents work.**
- **Respondents in the 2000 Cohort were more likely to have visited a doctor or clinic, stayed in a hospital overnight or visited a mental health professional in the last year.**
- **A small number of infants had no well baby visits (about 5 percent). About 20 percent of respondents with young children reported a premature birth.**
- **Ninety percent of respondents' preschool and school age children are reported to be in good health.**
- **Twenty-five to 30 percent of respondents reported having a child with a chronic or recurring illness.**
- **Over 90 percent of children in both cohorts received grades of C or better in the past year, have not been expelled or suspended from school in the last year, and have never repeated a grade.**
- **About 90 of children and 80 percent of adults have health insurance, most often Medicaid.**

Adult Health

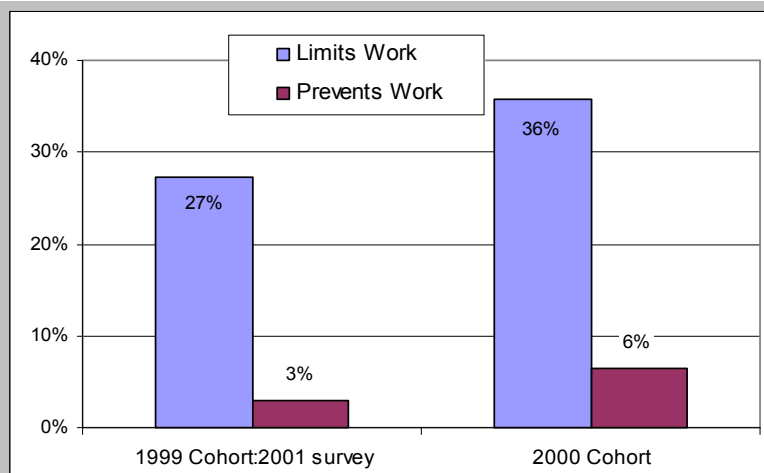
Approximately 60 percent of respondents in both the 1999 and 2000 Cohorts reported their health to be good or better. About a third in both cohorts reported their health as fair or poor. The percentage of respondents reporting poor or fair health was slightly higher for the 2000 Cohort. There was little change in the health status for the 1999 Cohort between the 2000 and 2001 surveys.

FIGURE 1: SELF-REPORTED HEALTH OF ADULT WORKFIRST STUDY RESPONDENTS AND WASHINGTON STATE POPULATION¹



The 1999 Washington State Population Survey found higher levels of self-reported health in the general state population. Almost 90 percent of respondents reported their health to be good or better. Only 12 percent reported fair or poor health.

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF RESPONDENTS REPORTING A HEALTH CONDITION THAT LIMITS OR PREVENTS WORK²



The 2001 WorkFirst Survey asked respondents if they had a physical, mental or other health condition, which had lasted for six months or more and limited the work that they could do.

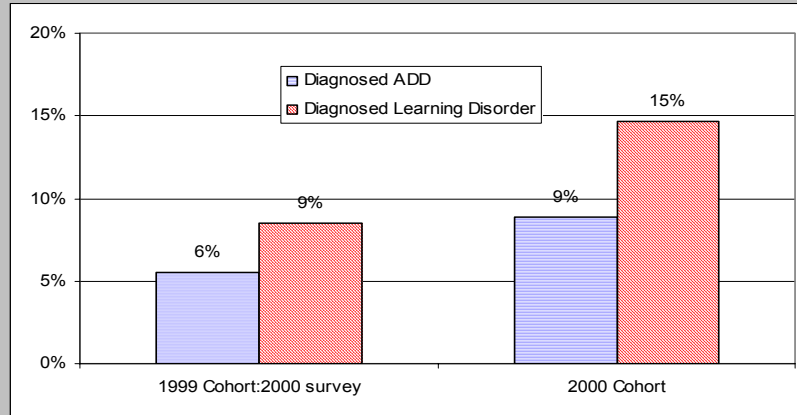
¹ The Washington State Population Survey is an annual survey designed to provide a profile of state residents.

² In the 2001 survey, the limit question was asked of all respondents, and the prevent question was asked of those not working at the time of the survey. In the 2000 survey, questions were only asked of those respondents who were not working in July 1998, so answers are not directly comparable.

Twenty-seven percent of the 1999 Cohort and the 36 percent of 2000 Cohort respondents reported this type of limiting condition.

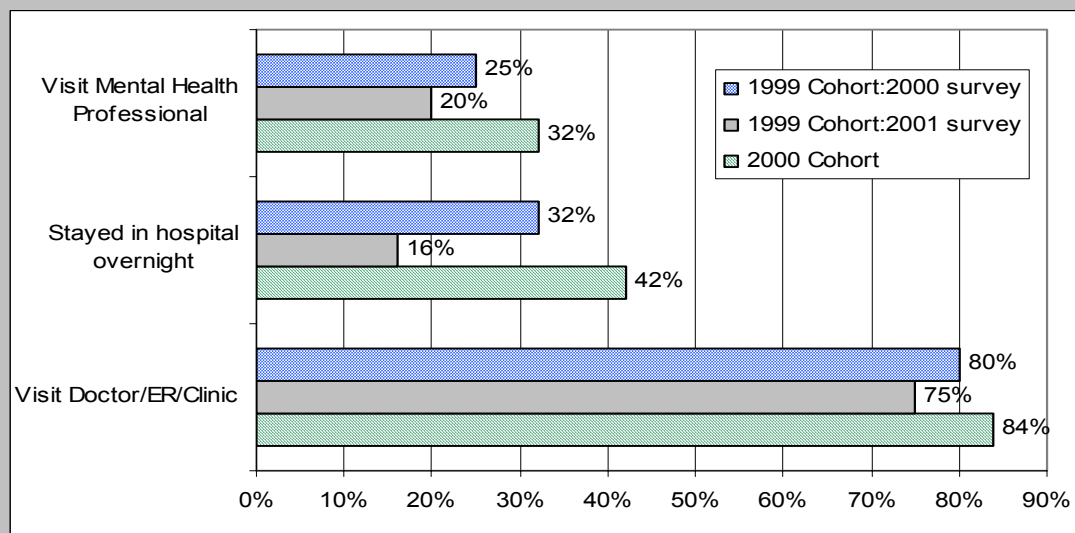
Respondents in both cohorts were also asked if they had a health related condition that had lasted for six months or more and prevented them from working at a job. Respondents in the 2000 Cohort reported a higher rate of work-preventing health conditions (6 percent) than did 1999 Cohort respondents (3 percent).

FIGURE 3: RESPONDENTS DIAGNOSED WITH ADD OR ANOTHER LEARNING DISABILITY



A significantly higher percentage of the 2000 Cohort respondents were diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) (9%) or another learning disorder (15%) than were respondents in 1999 Cohort. Six percent of 1999 Cohort respondents were diagnosed with ADD and 9 percent of had a documented learning disability other than ADD.

FIGURE 4: REPORTED VISITS TO HOSPITAL/HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



The figure above shows the percentage of respondents who reported physical or mental health visits in the previous year. A significantly greater percentage of respondents in 2000 Cohort reported a medical visit (84%), staying in a hospital overnight (42%) and visiting a mental health professional (32%) in the last year than did respondents in the 1999 Cohort. Close to 80 percent of respondents in both cohorts reported visiting a doctor, emergency room, or clinic in the past year. The 1999 Cohort reported fewer medical and mental health visits in the 2001 survey than they did in the 2000 survey.

Prenatal and Infant Health

**FIGURE 5:
PRENATAL AND
INFANT HEALTH
INDICATORS³ AND
OUTCOMES**

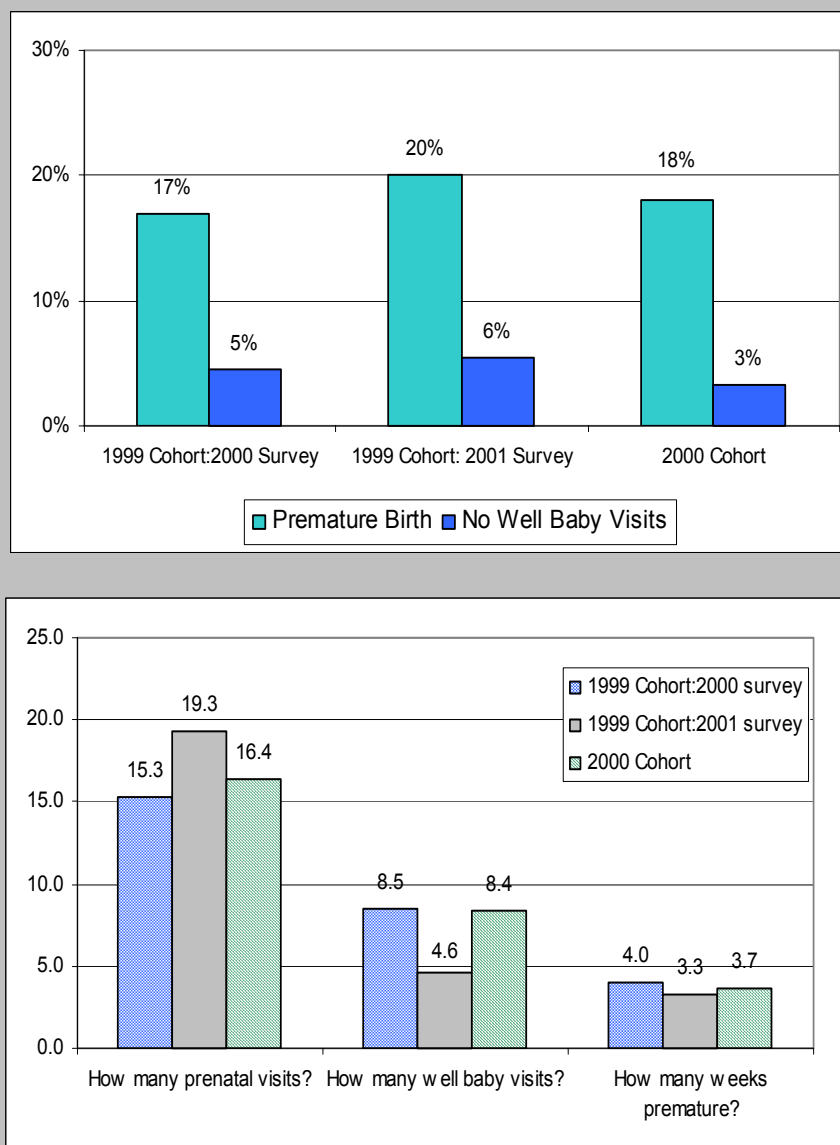


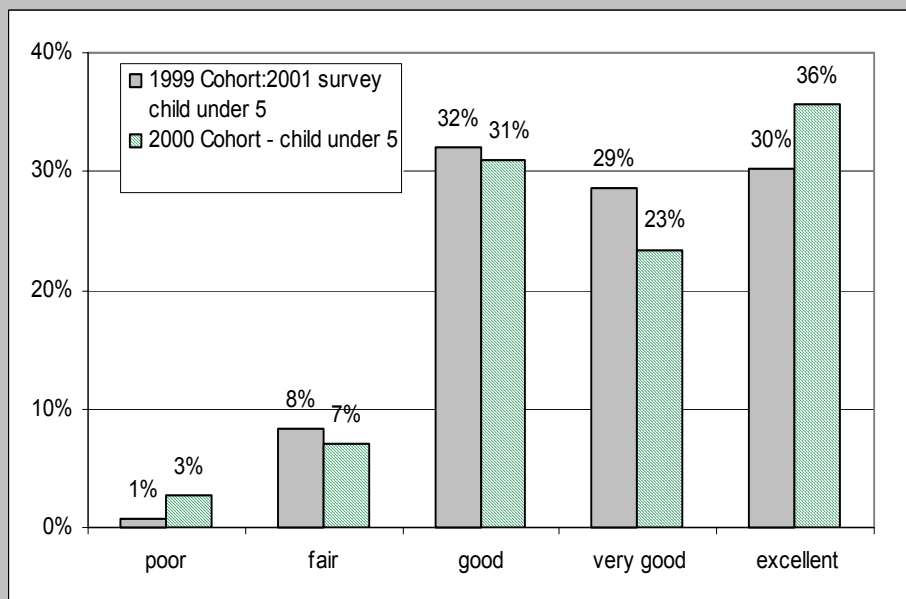
Figure 5 compares indicators of infant health and health care for children of the WorkFirst Study respondents. Close to twenty percent of respondents with new babies in all three groups reported having had a premature birth. Very few children were reported to have had no well baby visits.

For respondents who reported a premature birth, the number of weeks premature averaged between three and four. For all three groups of respondents, those reporting a premature birth also reported a higher mean number of prenatal visits (not shown here).

³ In the 2001 survey, questions for the 1999 cohort were only asked for children born since the last survey.

Child Health

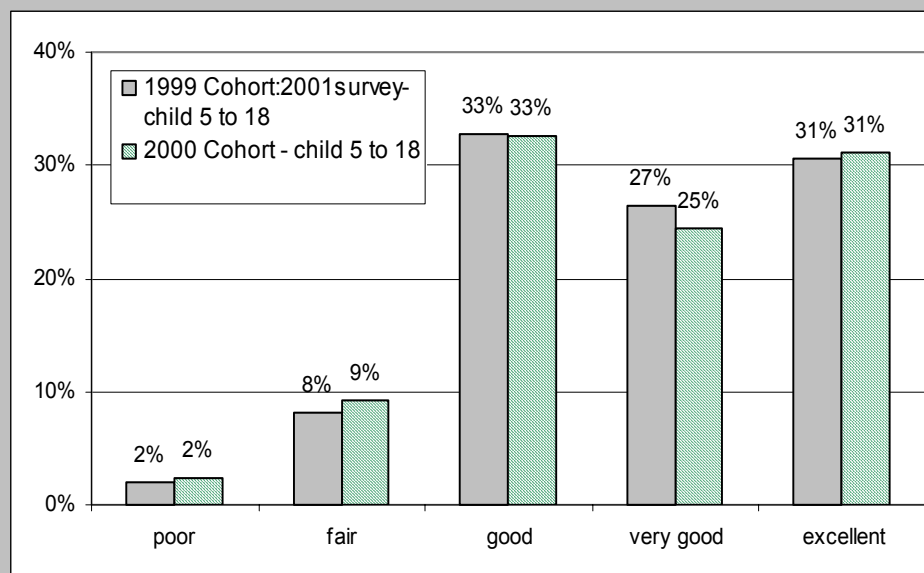
**FIGURE 6:
REPORTED HEALTH
OF CHILDREN
UNDER 5⁴**



* QUESTION ASKS ABOUT HEALTH OF CHILD UNDER FIVE WITH THE MOST RECENT BIRTHDAY

At least 90 percent of respondents in both cohorts reported the health of their children under five as good or better. Around 10 percent of respondents in both groups reported their children to be in fair or poor health. The distributions were very similar for school-aged children (shown in Figure 7).

**FIGURE 7:
REPORTED
HEALTH OF
CHILDREN 5-18**



* QUESTION ASKS ABOUT HEALTH OF CHILD BETWEEN THE AGES OF 5 AND 18 WITH THE MOST RECENT BIRTHDAY

⁴ Results from the 1999 Cohort: 2000 survey are not included because child health questions were asked differently in the 2000 and 2001 surveys. In the 2000 survey, respondents were asked to report about the health of their youngest child under age 3. In the 2001 survey, respondents were asked to report on their child under age 5 with the most recent birthday and their child aged 5-18 with the most recent birthday.

**FIGURE 8:
CHILD HEALTH
CARE VISITS IN LAST
YEAR FOR
PRESCHOOL
AND SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN**

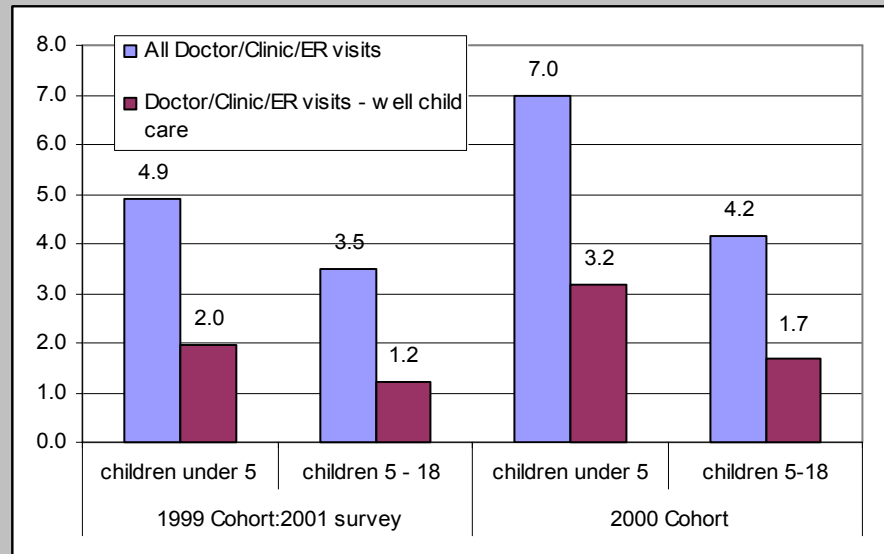
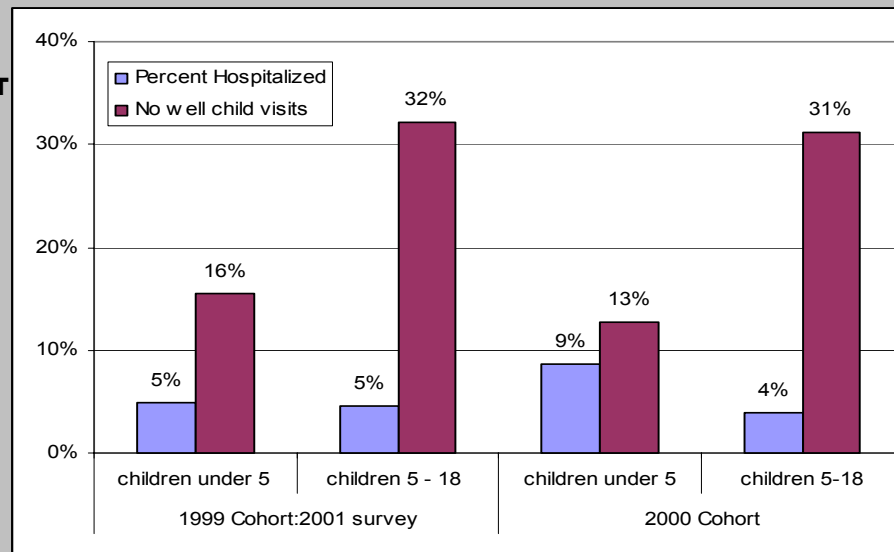


Figure 8 compares data from the 2001 survey on child health care visits in the past year for children under five and children 5-18. Only a small percentage of children in both cohorts had been hospitalized in the previous year, with the highest percentage being 9 percent of the 2000 Cohort children under 5. About 15 percent of children under 5 in both cohorts had no reported well-child visits. About 30 percent of school-age children in both groups had no reported well-child visits.

The average number of doctor, clinic, or ER visits varied from a high of 7 for children under five in the 2000 Cohort to a low of 3.5 for children 5-18 of 1999 Cohort respondents. Children under 5 had higher average number of visits to a doctor, clinic or ER. For both age categories, about half of the reported visits were for well child health care. Children in the 2000 Cohort had significantly more well child visits than did children in the 1999 Cohort.

FIGURE 9: WHERE CHILDREN USUALLY RECEIVED HEALTH CARE

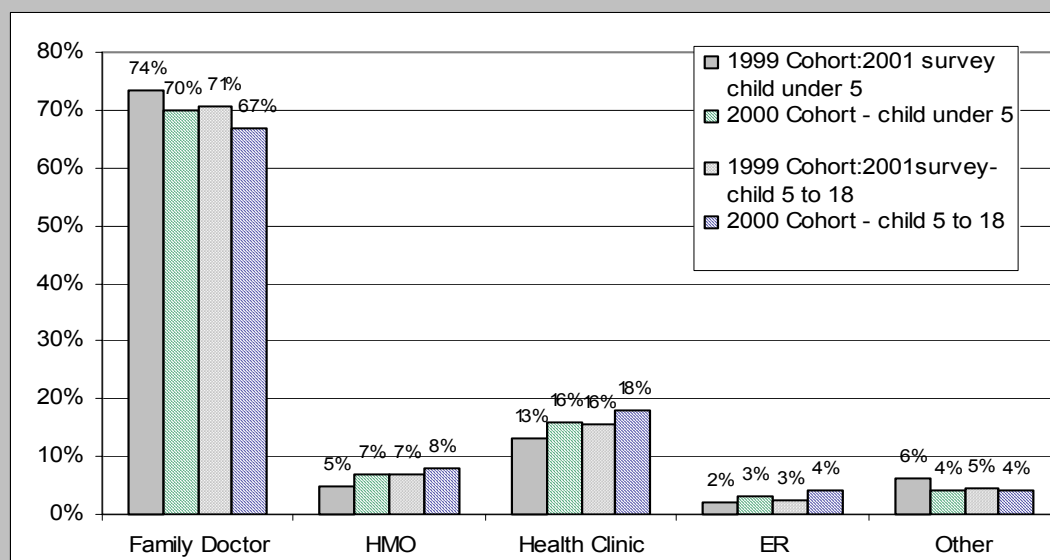
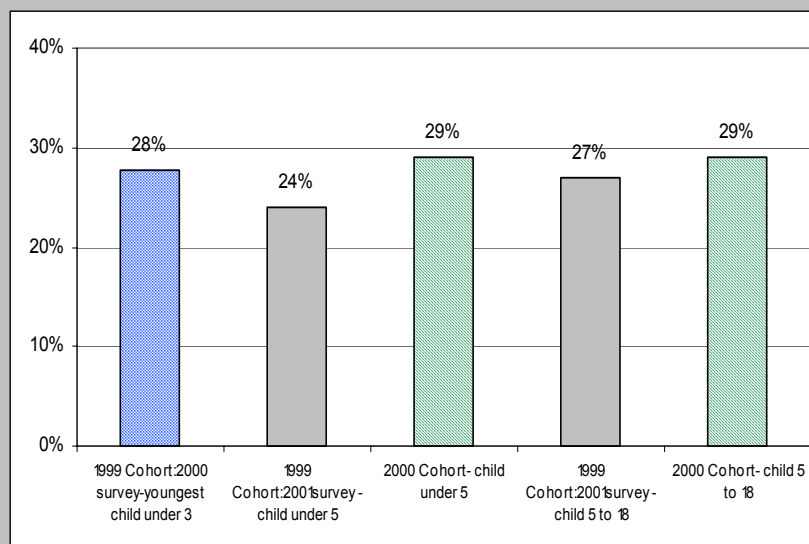


Figure 9 shows where respondents' preschool and school age children usually received health care. Most children in each group (close to 70 percent) received their health care from a family doctor. Health clinics were the second most common location. Few children usually received care at the emergency room (ER).

**FIGURE 10:
PERCENTAGE
OF CHILDREN WITH
CHRONIC OR
RECURRING ILLNESS**



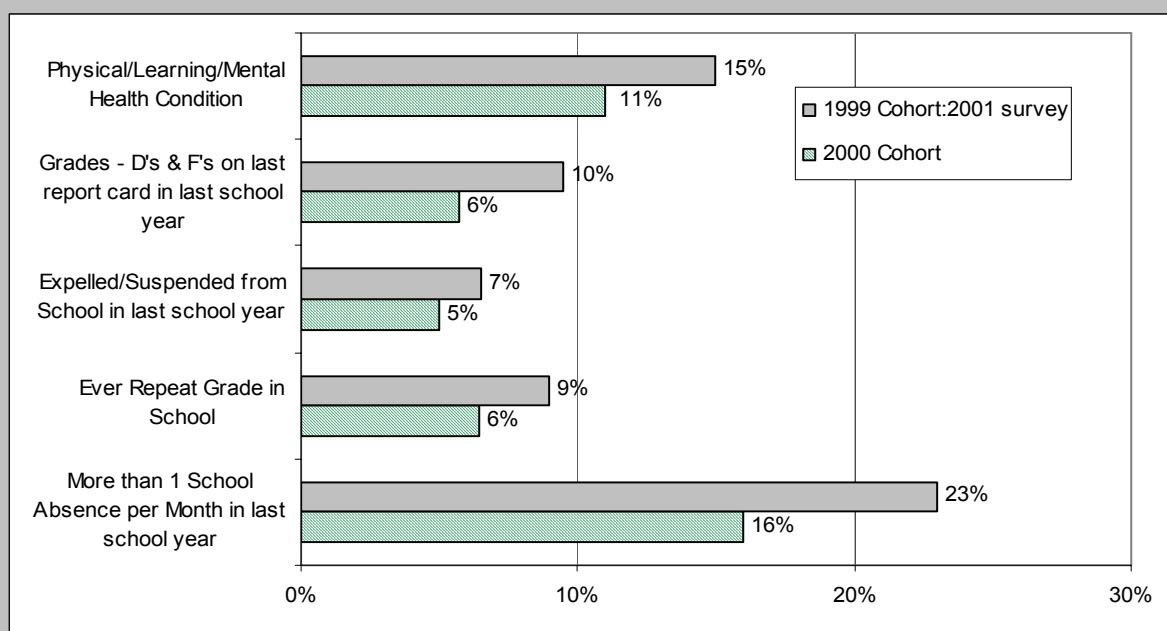
Between 25 and 30 percent of respondents reported having a child with a chronic or recurring illness (Figure 10). The rates were fairly consistent for young children (under 3 or 5) and for school-age children. It is important to note that a range of child illnesses could be called chronic or recurring, from ear infections to asthma, to cancer.

Child School Outcomes

Figure 11 compares school outcomes reported in the 2001 survey for school age children. Parents in the 1999 Cohort reported significantly higher percentage of children with each of the problems. Some of the differences between the 1999 and 2000 cohort may be due to the older average age of children in the first cohort.

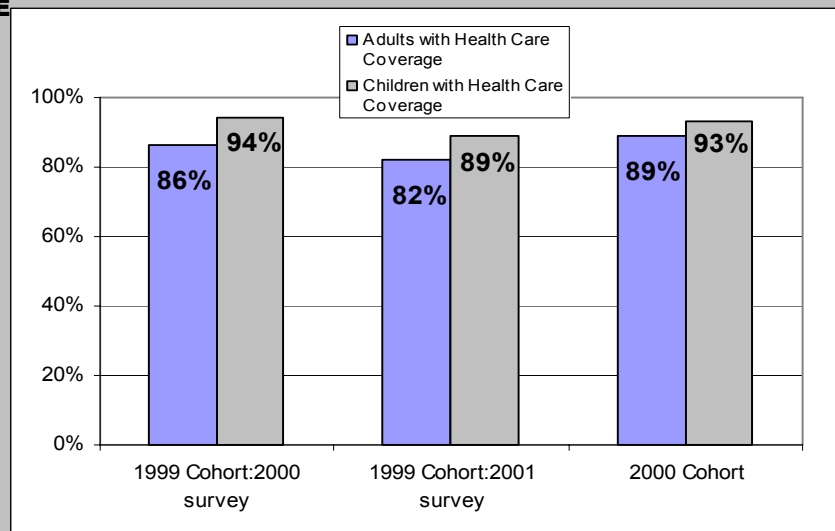
Fifteen percent of the school-age children in the 1999 Cohort had a physical, learning or mental health condition that limits their ability to participate in the usual types of activities done by children. Parents reported this for only 11 percent of 2000 Cohort children. Over 90 percent of school-age children in both groups received grades of C or higher in the last school year. Only 6 percent of children in the 2000 Cohort and 10 percent of 1999 Cohort children received D's and F's in school. Only a small percentage of children in both cohorts were expelled or suspended from school in the last year (7 percent for the 1999 Cohort and 5 percent of the 2000 Cohort). Nine percent of the 1999 Cohort children and 6 percent of the 2000 Cohort children have repeated a grade in school since kindergarten. A significantly larger percentage of children in the 1999 Cohort (23 percent) were absent from school more often than once per month in the last school year than for children in 2000 Cohort (16 percent).

FIGURE 11: COMPARISON OF SCHOOL OUTCOME INDICATORS



Adult and Child Insurance Coverage

FIGURE 12: PERCENTAGE OF ADULTS AND CHILDREN WITH HEALTH CARE INSURANCE



Over 80 percent of adult respondents reported having health care coverage. Eight-six percent of 1999 Cohort respondents reported having coverage in the 2000 survey. However in the 2001 survey, a slightly lower percentage (82 percent) reported having health insurance. The 2000 Cohort respondents reported the highest levels of adult health care coverage with 89 percent.

About 90 percent of children in both the 1999 and 2000 Cohorts have health care coverage. Ninety-four percent of 1999 Cohort in the 2000 survey reported having coverage, as did 93 percent of the children in 2000 Cohort (2001 survey). However, in the subsequent follow up survey with the 1999 Cohort (2001 survey), a slightly lower percentage of children (89 percent) reported having health care insurance.

FIGURE 13: TYPE OF HEALTH INSURANCE REPORTED BY ADULT RESPONDENTS

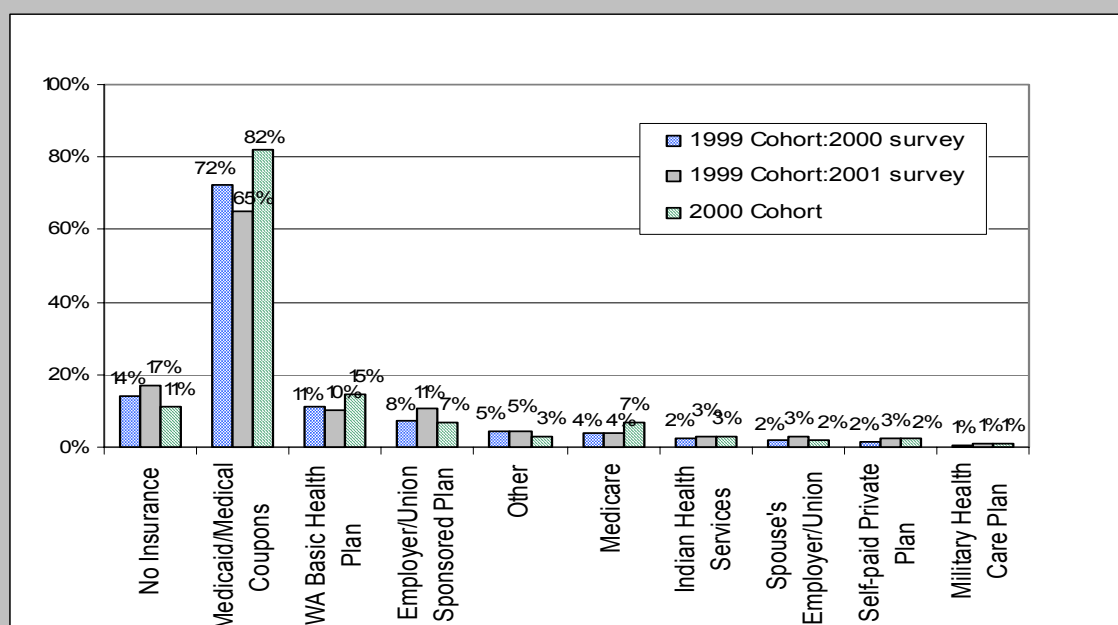
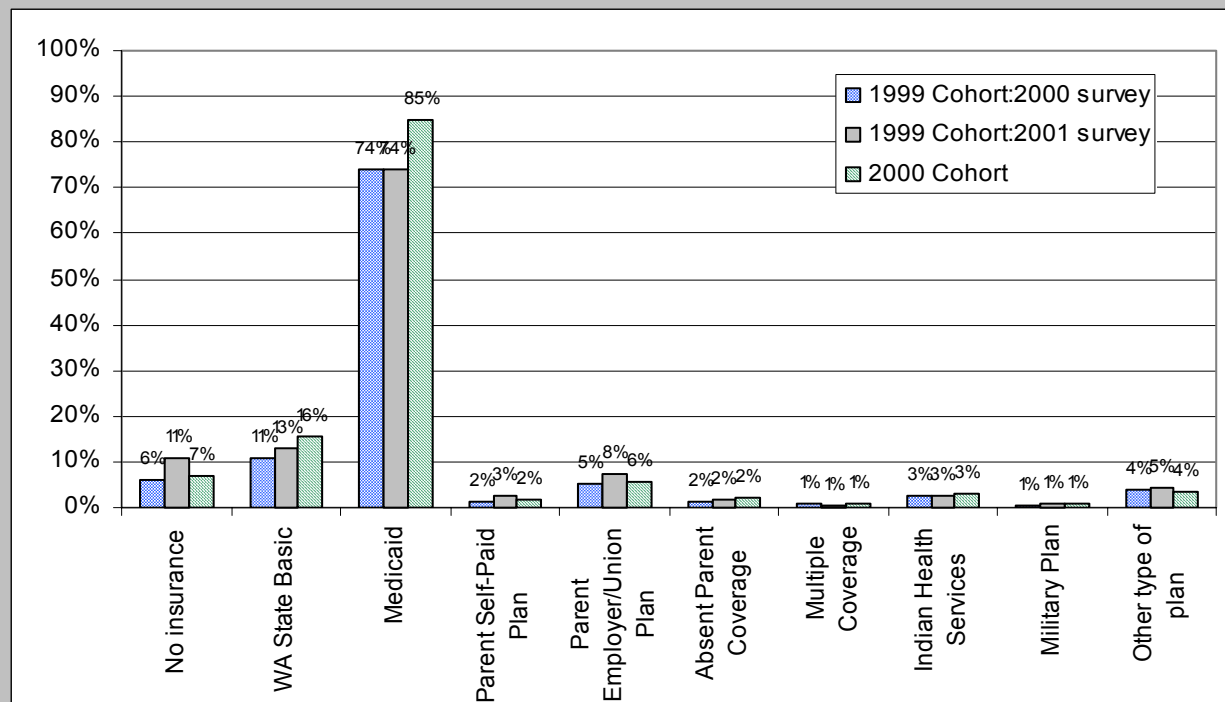


Figure 13 shows the type of health care coverage reported by adult respondents. Most respondents had coverage through Medicaid or Medical Coupons (72 percent of 1999 Cohort: 2000 survey respondents, 65 percent of 1999 Cohort: 2001 survey respondents and 82 percent of 2000 Cohort). The next most common form of insurance for two of the groups was the Washington Basic Health Plan (11 percent of the 1999 Cohort: 2000 survey respondents and 15 percent of the 2000 Cohort). However, the next most common form of insurance coverage for 1999 Cohort respondents in the 2001 survey was an employer or union sponsored plan at 11 percent. Only about 8 percent of the respondents reported this type of coverage in the earlier interview (1999 Cohort: 2000 survey).

Figure 14 shows the types of health care coverage for children. The distribution of health insurance for children is very similar to that for adults. For all three groups, the most common type of insurance for children was Medicaid (74 percent of 1999 Cohort: 2000 survey respondents, 74 percent of 1999 Cohort: 2001 survey respondents, and 85 percent of 2000 Cohort). The next most common form of insurance reported was the Washington State Basic Plan (11 percent of 1999 Cohort: 2000 survey, 13 percent of 1999 Cohort: 2001 survey and 16 percent of 2000 Cohort). And although the majority of children had some form of health care coverage, 6 percent of 1999 Cohort in the 2000 survey, 11 percent of 1999 Cohort in the 2001 survey, and 7 percent of 2000 Cohort children had no reported health insurance coverage.

FIGURE 14: TYPE OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR CHILDREN⁵



⁵ Respondents can report more than one type of insurance for each child so percentages can add up to more than 100 percent.